

Application No. 010/077,383
Amendment "C" dated February 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 4, 2005

REMARKS

Initially, this amendment after final should be entered because it places the application in condition for prompt allowance without adding any new issues for consideration. In fact, all of the rejected subject matter is now being cancelled, to be pursued in a continuation, so that the allowable subject matter of the present case can advance to issuance.

In the final Office Action, mailed February 4, 2005, claims 1-5, 7, 9-26 and 33-38 were considered. Of these claims, claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 12, 14, 26, 31 and 33-38 were rejected¹, while claim 13 was objected to for depending on rejected claim 1, but was otherwise found allowable, and while claims 15-25 were found allowable as presented.

By this paper, claims 12-13, 26, 31, and 33-38 have been cancelled and claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 13 with the limitations of intermediary claim 12, such that amended claim 1 now comprises allowable claim 13 written in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7 and 9-11 should now be found in condition for prompt allowance for at least the same reasons that claim 13 was found allowable in the last action.

Inasmuch as this resolves all issues of record, Applicants respectfully submit that the application should now be allowed with claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, and 15-25.

¹ Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 12, 14, 26, 31 and 33-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bologna (U.S. Patent No. 6,462,670) in view of Hirano (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,236). Claims 7 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bologna and Hirano and further in view of Alfano (U.S. Patent No. 6,037,732). Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

Application No. 010/077,285
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In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 17 day of February 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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